

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 11.

Please enter the pending claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
- B. a holder adapted to mount a substrate;  
a stage adapted to position said holder in a chamber;  
a pumping system adapted to evacuate said chamber;  
an imaging system adapted to locate an opaque defect in said substrate;  
a gas delivery system adapted to dispense a reactant gas towards said defect; and  
an electron delivery system adapted to direct electrons towards said opaque defect and induce etching by said reactant gas, said electrons comprising a tail diameter of about 5-125 nm.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said imaging system comprises an electron column.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said electron delivery system comprises an electron column.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said substrate comprises a transmissive DUV mask.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said opaque defect comprises chrome and said reactant gas comprises chlorine and oxygen.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said substrate comprises a reflective EUV mask.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said opaque defect comprises an absorber and said reactant gas comprises Xenon Fluoride ( $\text{XeF}_2$ ).
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said opaque defect comprises Carbon and said reactant gas comprises water vapor or oxygen.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a focusing system adapted to highly focus said electrons on said opaque defect.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a scanning system adapted to scan said electrons across said opaque defect.

B1  
a1

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an acceleration system adapted to provide a low acceleration voltage for said electrons, said low acceleration voltage comprising a range of 0.3-3.0 keV.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a computer adapted to control said electron delivery system.

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13. - 17. (cancelled)

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